

[Mrs. Johnson enclosed a sketch of one of the birds, which is here reproduced, and which represents with great fidelity a Lesser Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*). The other bird, uniformly dark, was evidently an immature Common Noddy (*Anous stolidus*). On July 19 it was reported that a flock estimated to contain about one hundred birds had taken shelter on the jetty at Busselton. Next day Major H. M. Whittell, of Bridgetown, visited Busselton and found several dead Lesser Noddies on the beach by the jetty. The birds examined were immature, and among them was one immature Common Noddy. The occurrence of these terns in such large numbers in Geographe Bay at this time of the year is of considerable ornithological interest. Lesser Noddies are not infrequently found on South-west beaches after winter storms but never previously had a visitation of this magnitude been reported. The presence of the Common Noddies is of even greater significance. These are migratory terns, nesting in large numbers on the Abrolhos in the spring and summer, but their whereabouts in the winter months were a mystery and no specimens had been collected anywhere away from the breeding grounds in the non-nesting period. The observations of Mrs. Johnson and the specimen collected by Major Whittell provide evidence that some at least of the immature Common Noddies frequent the seas off the South-west coast

—EDITOR.]

The Tasmanian Mutton-bird in Western Australia.—On November 5, 1946, I found washed up on the beach five miles west of Starvation Boat Harbour, near Hopetoun, the remains of a Tasmanian Mutton-bird or Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*)—the first record of the species from Western Australian seas. On April 23, 1948, I was at Esperance and was exceedingly interested to find three specimens of the species washed ashore on the town beach. I thereupon searched the beach from the rocks at Dempster Head to the third jetty near Bandy Creek but found no more. No other sea-birds were washed up, not even the local-nesting *Puffinus carneipes*. There were extensive beds of sea-grass and about 30 or 40 specimens of the large sea-hare (*Aplysia gigantea*), one of the biggest measuring 22 inches in total length. Unusually prolonged easterly winds had been blowing during the week.

All of the three mutton-birds were immature females, with small flat ovaries and straight oviducts. In two of the birds the outer primaries were missing. They were very fat and in the gizzard were small squid beaks and small quartz pebbles, with a greenish substance in the proventriculus. The nearest nesting locality is St. Francis Island, off Ceduna, at the eastern side of the Great Australian Bight and over 700 miles away in a direct line. So the birds had been foraging a long way west, and this at a time when the birds were on the eve of their migration to the north Pacific.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.